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# MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

Happy Holidays!

VOL. #19, ISSUE 2 PAW PAW MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAW PAW, MI December 1992

## WINTER FUN! Concert Monday Night

The band concert was performed by the Middle School Cadet Band along with the High School Symphony Band at the Winter Concert Dec. 14.

The music was conducted by Miss Amy Gronda. The public were welcomed.

j.m. and l.r.

## America and Me Essays

The America and Me contest is an essay contest for Michigan eighth graders. Each school is allowed ten entrants who will be in the running for first, second, and third place.

This year's topic was "Why I am Important to America." Students who enter can earn award certificates, savings bonds up to $1000, and the opportunity to meet the leaders of the state government like John Engler.

This year's entrants from P.P.M.S. are Brian Argo, Regina Ewert, Will Moore, Carrie Palasinski, Sarah Plucinski, Jayme Russ, Jessica Silber, Rebecca Stoner, Artie Wilcox, and Louis Williams.

by s. plucinski

## Paw Paw Poets on Display

30 Middle School poets have had their work on display at Paw Paw' Wendy's from November 14 until Dec. 15 as authors chosen in a contest sponsored by both Wendy's and the Michigan Alliance for the Arts.

Each Wendy's displays around sixty poems; poets from South Haven, Lawton, Marcellus and other area schools were on display as well.

Four of the poets have also had their poems published in a book that reflects the best works in the state. Andy Krause, Lucas Mansburger, Ramon Martinez and Amanda Byrd were honored in that way.

Chris Moore, Ryan Sibert, Brooke Guernsey, Seanna Sullivan, Josh White, Becca Stoner, Sarah Plucinski, Carrie Palasinski, Jason Zinkil, Jeff Rogers, Jessica Sheltrown, Amanda Byrd, Erin Davis, Erin Jordan, Andy Goodman, Sarah Rosenberg, Winonah LaGrande, Lucas Mansberger, Kelly DeRight, Andy Seidel, Ryan Piecyk, Peggy Koppers, Emily Sibert, Anna Verhoeven, Darin Meyer, and Andy Krause all went to Wendy's on Dec. 9 along with their language arts teachers and Superintendent Carlson to enjoy their free Wendy's meals and see their work on display.

Teachers involved were Mrs. Anne Smith, Mr. Al Hone, Mrs. Colette Smith and Mrs. Chris Swanson.

## FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

Student council and Boy Scout Troop 169 wrap up the food drive today and tomorrow here at the Middle School. Reading classes, designated as homerooms, have been bringing in canned goods for two weeks.

Prizes are awarded for the classes bringing the most food. Paw Paw Pride in action!

# Our Opinions ....

## Fighting

Why do people fight and how do you solve it is what is on some people's minds. Why do people just pick a person out just for the fun of itand get into a fight? On some psychology books it says if a child or adult is deliberately t ing to hurt someone, it is usually because of situations at home and they are channeling their anger out on other kids.

Some people can feel threatened enough to fight back with that person. Now what can we do about the problem?

Some people suggest suspension or expulsion but I do not think that how to handle this kind of situation. I think that they should be assigned to some kind of counseling. Then the counselor can possibly get the problems brought to the attention of their family so it could be solved or helped.

by Amanda Byrd

## Why?

White Clouds
Blue Sky
Green Grass
Black Night
Red Rose

If we can accept the colors of nature, why can't we accept the color of people?

by J. Handley

# SPAM: PART 1

Spam? What is it? Who invented it? Where is it used? How does it taste?

Nobody seems to know. It is thought to be - horse meat and water or sheep and fish meat. It was invented by Eew D. Spam. It is frequently used for Hair Grease. It tastes worse than liver.

by a. goodman

# Parents and T.V. Choice

Why Parents won't let you watch what you want to

Do you always wondere why yc parents say no to everything yc want to watch? This reporter understands/ Does this happer to you? You're at the video rental place with your parents and you pick up a really great movie. Next thing you know your dad or mom says "You can't watc that. It's rated PG13 or R. It full of vulgar language. Sex scenes. It's not proper for you age." My dad tells me the same things. He says,"I don't want your mind polluted and besides you're too young to watch violence." I mean, get real, this is the nineties.

That's just it. In the nineties, kids are faced with more violence, drugs, robberies murders and are used to vulgar language.

I think parents want to protect their kids. I know my da feels that way. He still treats me as if I were five years old. So next time your parents say "no" to a movie, just say "I'll see it on the news or in the paper. Why not see it now?"

by Kim Adkins

You have probably heard of the trouble in Somalia on the Horn of Africa. Famine has struck the country. Somalians are starving and dying. Teenagers with weapons are stealing all the relief supplies.

Americans are being sent to bring in supplies and to restore law and order. Mogadishu is the capital and is filled with thousands of starving people. We hope the military can change the way it's been.

Andy Goodman

## Boys' Basketball Begins

The 8th grade boys' basketball season is underway. Coaching this year's team is Chuck Carpentier.

The team includes MAtt Parker, Tim McCormick, Dennis Sellon, David Bush, Josh Stipes, Josh Traughber, Kerry Branch, Artie Wilcox, Brian Argo, Juan Cruz, Jeff Edinger, Robert Brunetti, Will Moore, Matt Wellar, Doug Diemer, Brandon Root, Andy Axe, Jason Zinkil, Jim Yarberry, Adam Dudycha, Luke Butler, Benjie Merrill, Brad Scott, Ry Charters, John Branch, Jeremiah Bloink, Louis Willliams, Jeremiah Bergeson, and Mike Shadley.

The 7th graders are coached by Mark Hindenach, once a P.P.M.S. team member himself.

The team members are Andy Ball, Greg Bare, Steve Barrett, Jeremy Crump, Joe Essar, John Frey, Zach Harling, Doug Hart, Tom Johnson, Andy Krause, Patrick Lee, Chris Thomas, Darin Meyer, Dan Miller, Justin Mount, Eric Nitz, Kevin Podkol, Ryan Riegle, Jared Rotzier, Andy Seidel, Ken Thomasma, Nate Varnesdeel, Joe Watson, Chip Wright, Rich Winters, Bill Hopper, Mark Hodges, and Jeff Kandler.

The team members also have to maintain passing grades to remain active on the team.

by M. Kuntz

## SANTA WAS For Real

Santa Claus was a real person called Saint Nicholaus. Historians think Nicholas was born in Pataria, in what is now Turkey. When he was nineteen he became a priest . He later became a bishop. He was noted for his generosity and a story is told of how he left gold coins for three orphans. That's one reason why he is thought of as a gift-giver. He died during the 300's A.D.

by j. dent

Teacher sayings:

Mrs. Pasman: "Zip it."

Mr. Watterworth: "Close but no cigar."

Mr. Martin: "What have you..."

## Student Council Chosen

Student council officers ar president, Kim Abshagen, vice-president Christy Vesey, secretary, Erin Vesey, and treasurer Doug Diemer.

Representatives are Scott Watts, Andrea Barnes, Bonnie Pursley, Ryan Peicyk, Adam Dudycha, Seanna Sullivan, Lorri Robbins, Zach Harling, Lindsey Nufer, Mandi Thomasma, Jeff Hodges, Jonathan Hughes, Robert Brunetti, Scott Wellinga, Joe Watson, Ry Charters, Becky Henley, and Amy Baltmanis.

Alternates (in case a rep. is ill or ineligible) are Scott Harrison, Shanon Butler, Jared Rotzien, Sarah Hagg, Katy Rock, Brian Argo, Jasmine Baker, Christy Miller, Darin Meyer, Josh Ernstes, Julie Vesey, Winonah LaGrande, Missy Wright, Rene Rennhack, Elizabeth Handy, Lisa White, Lisa Leathers, Kim Stover and Jericho Groenland.

## Goofy Horoscopes

For those who like the goofy, here are goofy horoscopes.

Aries- Watch out for teachers lurking behind every corner.

Taurus- Look both ways before you cross the streets. You may get run over by a Taurus."

Gemini- Watch out for falling electric poles. It could be a shocking experiences.

Cancer- Don't drink and drive.

Leo- Look before you leap. You may run into something.

Virgo- Keep smiling. It's becoming on you.

Libra- Watch out...Your month is over.

Scorpio- Don't serve possessed turkeys.

Sagittarius- You were an animal in your last life...

Capricorn- You will get a call from a super girl or guy (maybe even Clark Kent. )

Aquarius- A hot pizza deliverer will be found on your door step.

Pisces- Don't forget your underwear this Halloween too.

j. cutler/ j. dent

## Miss Gronda, Melons, & Middle School

Miss Amy Gronda thinks, ouf of all the fruit, she is a melon because sometimes she is hard and cold outside but soft on the inside .

The new band director's favorite holiday is Christmas. She likes it because she likes the big Christmas change; there's lots of snow and people are "happy."

She was born in Saginaw where she lived until second grade. she left for college at Michigan State- one reason why her favorite color is green.

After college she sent her application to Paw Paw along with many other places. She got called for an interview and then was offered the job. Of course, she took it.

She likes the variety of teaching 6th through 12th grade. Although she doesn't like traveling between schools.

She enjoys all sports to watch and play, especially skiing, softball, golf, volleyball, and basketball. She likes to eat salty foods too.

Miss Gronda has played the piano since kindergarten and has always been in the band. She has wanted to be in education. Of course- she chose band director for her occupation.

Since the first time she played the French horn, she fell in love. Her favorite piece of music is "American Overture for Band" because it's the best piece for French horn players.

s.plucinski and b.stoner

## Top Selling Toys

Rene Rennhack and Jenny Reits are doing a survey on what is the top-selling Christmas present. It looks like Magic Potty Baby wins.

Second place went to Super Nintendo and third place to Sega Genesis.

Thank you to Mr. Ruesink for letting us do this article in our reading class.

r.rennhack/ j. reits

## Animal Stories

Everyone has some animal story. The following are a collection of those the G.Times reporters gathered.

My cat Muffin would run into the chicken coop we had and chase the baby chickens. She never killed any. Muffin also would go swimming in the swamp onthe east side of our property. She also used to chase my brothers' and my rabbits. She also used to chase our baby rabbits. Kim Adkins

My dog Samson was chased by my cat Thomas and my dog is a golden retriever. Brandi Espinosa.

We had company one night and the guy had left his car window rolled down. Pepper, our cat, jumped in the car and fell asleep. The company left and as they were going down the street, Pepper jumped up and out the window. The driver nearly had an accident. Jim Yarberry.

My friend's cat sits on her mom's head when she is trying to go to sleep.

Our dog jumped off the deck that is ten feet off the ground and landed on all fours. Jessa Bogema.

Have any good animal tales? Send them to Mrs. Swanson's mailbox in the office or bring them to room 203.

## Night After Christmas

The Night After Christmas
And all through the house,
Everyone was stirring even the mouse.
The stockings had fallen
Down to the ground.
Everyone was partying even the hound.
Dirty dishes were piled up
What seemed like a mile up.
St. Nick's visit was not to be forgot,
A toy was left for each and every tot.
Hence ends another Christmas
And another year too so
Toodle do.

j. groenland

# Good Timers

Staff for the Good Times this issue included the following:

Lauren McKenzie, Brooke Guernsey, Molly Kuntz, Kristi Jack, Amanda Alexander, Sarah Plucinski, Anna Oliva, Angela Neumeier, Seanna Sullivan, Amy Vincent, Andy Goodman, Jericho Groenland, Amanda Byrd, Jenny Reits, Rene Rennhack, Josh White, Kim Adkins, Jamie Mollitor, Liz Rumbaugh, Brad Hassler, Erica Selby, Jenny Yerty, Erin Davis, Jeff Rogers, Tara Pullen and Jessica Surdy.

Staff members need to maintain passing grades to remain active. The next news meetings are Jan. 20, January 27 and February 3 in Mrs. Swanson's room at 10:20.

# SPAM: Part 2

Spam. What is it? Does it breathe or does it just seem to? Well, it seems like there are thousands of questions about Spam. I can just imagine cavemen sitting around in one family cave and opening a can of Spam. They would undoubtedly say, "Urgh?" Well, I think people still say "Urgh?" today when they open Spam.

I casually asked a few eighth graders what they thought Spam was and here are a few of their responses. Mikki Wright said, "It is parts of animals they don't use elsewhere...not even in dog food." Rob Gehl said, " It captured the essence of ham but it's cheaper."

"It's pig feet in an air-tight can with lard, " agreed Kim Adkins and Karis Consoletti. Seanna Sullivan thinks, "It's brains and snot." Kristi Jack wants to say, "Spam is just plain icky."

I took a walk down the canned meat aisle to see what Spam was and here's what it said: "Pork shoulder, beef, water and a whole bunch of artificial flavorings and colors. Sorry guys.

a. alexander

## Childhood Memories

Playing on the swings
Swinging into the sky
Worrying about nothing
Except how high I could fly.

Riding bikes,
Seeing if I could beat you.

Running through the woods
Playing tag.

Telling ghost stories
And laughing about wet pants.
We grew older.
Still have those memories.

When you moved
I locked myself in the bathroom.

I remember you
Getting your braces off
Screaming about the cute guy in school.

Michigan to Texas is a big move.
Farther than I thought
Before these long months.

But at least we had all those
Childhood memories.

s. weaver

## What We Really Want for Christmas

Recently we did a survey of the sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The survey was to see what you really wanted for Christmas and the response was tremendous.

It seemed like everybody wanted a C.D. player, money, clothes, or some kind of video game. But surprisingly enough quite a few people said they had everything they wanted and they don't need anything at all. (like we really believe them.)

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## (From p.5) Christmas Wishes

Of course, we had some people who thought they'd be funny and put down Barbie and Totally Hair Ken. But who knows? There just might be an elite group of middle schoolers who do want Kens and Barbies!

Here are a few of our favorite responses. Rob Gehl would like "possession of the world. " A mystery person would like the moon. Chris Baily would really like "some Star Trek models " bcause he's a big fan. ISrael Diaz would like a new bike (motorcycle) because he's tired of his.

Lindsey Nufer wants "a ski outfit so I can go skiing at Bittersweet."

Catherine O'Keefe wants "an indoor swimming pool."(Hey why not?) Sarah Mitchell would like "anything to do with horses and riding because I love it." Winonah LaGrande wants " gift certificates because they last longest and are most useful."

Erik Conolly wants "Super Nintendo." So does Robert Strong. Lauren MCkenzie wants "M.C. Esher stuff - my favorite artist." George Melichar needs " a computer so I could write my novel." David Bush wants "A Spree. I want some freedom." Jeff Hodges wants " a wave runner so in summer I'll have something to do."

David Holzworth wants " a hunting jacket so I'll be warm when I'm hunting." Bill Hopper wants " a dirt bike. I really like riding them." Nick Yadlowsky wants " a gun. I never have owned one." Casey Wentzel wants " game boy because you can travel so easy with it."

Heather Labadie wants " a phone in my room for comfort and privacy." Sara Weaver wants " new pair of skis because the bottoms are scratched." Randy Hendrixsen wants " to rebuild my dirt bike because it needs a tune-up and I can't afford to do it."

Erin Jordan wants " a spiral perm because my hair is straight." Kristy Smith wants " money because I'm saving up for a new pair of skis." Scott Opalka wants " a computer so I can do a lot of things."

Chris Schuster wants " a t.v. so I can watch in my room." Brad Winkelman wants " a powerful 4mb ram computer with a keyboard and synthesizer hooked to it." Carrie Palasinski wants " a Dalmation. I've always wanted one." Regina Ewert wants " a stereo because mine is broken and I love music." Manrique Matyas would just like to sum up on how he feels about the holiday season with a big "Bah Humbug."

The author of this opinion poll would like to thank you all and say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

a. alexander

## What's Hot ?

Floral designs
hooded t-shirts
embroidered things
pastel shoes
hats with flowers
handknits
stripes
nautical look
photoprints
prairie prints
tip-top shorts
ballet-inspired shoes
bowling shirts
hanky lace
mixed media
lots of color together
vintage look

## What's Not?

supertight short skirts
tight acid-washed denim
pants tucked in boots
flashy logos
neon sportswear
stiff leathers
fur except on animals
watch rings
metallics
patent leather
decorated sandals
shoulder cluster earrings
thin belts
fluorescents

## If We Could Go Anywhere...

We did a poll on where people would like to go on Christmas vacation if they could. Here are some of our responses.

Anna Verhoeven wants to go "to Somalia to help the needy." Jessa Bogema would go to "Nairobi." "Mexico " where Jon McCormick said. Jeff Hodges would go to" Cancun."

Several people want to go to Tennessee. Dennis Sellon said, "Nevada, Las Vegas." Jeremiah Bloink wants to hunt and fish in Alaska. " I want to go shopping in Chicago, " says Jessica Dent. Emily Mattison says, "New York."

Lindsey Boysen says "Colorado" as did four others. Twenty-two people went for Hawaii. Carrie Palasinski says she wants to go to the mall. Josh Tesser says, " Brazil, because I have foreign exchange student cousin there."

Darin Meyer wants to go to Myrtle Beach. Amy Withers and twenty-three others said, "California." Jason Conolly says "Georgia." Angela Lanter says, "Indiana." Three people said "Jamaica" and sevn others said," The Bahamas."

Seventeen people said, "Europe." Five said "Australia because it's pretty or as Winonah LaGrande says,"It has so many animals ." Thirty-seven wanted to go to Disneyworld or Florida.

Interestingly, quite a few said anywhere but Paw Paw.

by b. guernsey and a. alexander

## Some Toys You Might Want to Get...

### THE BEST TOY COUNTDOWN!

8. Poppsie the Pup - really goes. Newspaper included.
7. Magic Barfing Baby.. throws up when you feed it.
6. Lil Anatomy Expert.. Young doctors learn- scalpels included.
5. My Pal Three- for kids who can't find a friend
4. Dateline- for girls/ guys who can't get a date.
3. MAcro Machines- oversized toys
2. New York Noirds- Drive your taxi to win but don't get mugged.
1. Classroom fighter 2 - join Bucky, Lens, Spencer, Theodore, and Dorf for the all-out buck-toothed, brainiacal battles.

The big winner was Classroom Fighter 2. Brains over Brawn. The scenario is this: The evil Cokebottle stole your homework assignment. Yo must battle your way through 8 levels of quizzes, tests, and *gasp* final exams before you can get it back in time for school. Can you do it?

That's it for this Christmas. Until next year...

Rob Gehl

## New to P.P.M.S.- Mr. Northuis

Mr. Northuis is the newest member of the middle school staff. He teaches special education in the mornings here. In the afternoon he is at Black River. At both schools he works with students who need special help in reading, math and language arts.

He says,"I enjoy teaching at the middle school a lot because the teachers are friendly and willing to help. I also like working with the students because they are excited about learning (most of the time) and they all have different ideas about subject matters and life. It gives me a special challenge that I look forward to facing each morning."

He became a teacher because he likes children and the challenge that they give him. No one day is the same when he teaches. He says, "I wanted to give the students what my teachers gave me when I grew up, a sense of direction and a good education."

His hobbies include a model train set (HO scale), going to Detroit Red Wings and Kalamazoo K-wings games, re-doing antique furniture, singing in local choirs in his hometown and

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## Mr. Northuis continued...

He likes all sports but the ones he enjoys the most are long-distance running, basketball, biking, triathalons and snow and water skiing.

He has no pets but plans on a dog someday when he convinces his wife to get a cocker spaniel or collie.

His favorite cartoons are Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny. He says ,"That's an interesting question...cartoons today have changed a great deal from when I grew up."

His favorite holiday is Christmas. This is because it is a time when " I get to see my family...not just my immediate family though but also my cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. " Christmas also gives him a chance to ski.

There is a big change in going from the middle school to lower elementary and the main reason is the abilitylevel of the children. Says Mr. Northuis, " I love working at both levels because of the excitement that the children have towards learning. I can truly say I enjoy the big differences in abilities and love my job."

## WHAT PAW PAW NEEDS

We took a poll (ah yes...another one. ) of what people think Paw Paw needs. Here are some of the results.

Kristy Smith said," a pool in one of the intermediate schools, more dances, and better roads." Casey Mendenhall said, " a concession stand at the school games." Amy Osment said,"Use of the auditorium for plays , and we need field trips."

Carie Alger said, "A better lunch, phone and pop machine." Nate Varnesdeel said," Better sports equipment and better uniforms."

Andy French said, "Doors on the bathroom stalls." Jenny Yerty said, " A book and tape store." Missy Forbes said, " A recycling program." Jennifer Jennings said , "An arcade," while Scott Opalka said, " A mall and a Hot n' Now."

Megan Abbott said, " More activities for kids." Jeff Bears thinks, "The library needs new books." Lyn DArr wants to see "More stores like Wal-Mart." Anna Reyna said, "Better transportation and education."

Lindsey Boysen also wanted " A shopping mall and a community center." Joe Boven wants "Sports for sixth graders." Winonah La Grande wants "More school activities and contests,trips."

Amanda Meeth wants " A school pop machine." Kristen Nugteren said, "The village should fix up Tyler Field for sports." Adam Shipley wants " More dances at cheaper costs and more recess time."

Katy Bloink wants "A cleaner lake." Christy Taylor wants "Bigger lockers upstairs." Greg Barr wants " A roller coaster." Sam Mesick wants " A public arcade." Jenny Kellerman says what's needed is "Someone who really cares."

a.goodman